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Position statement of Montana Library Association regarding the school library information and technology program:

The school library information and technology program serves all of the students of a school, regardless of race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, as well as supporting the school curriculum and the staff who deliver it. The library program enables students to develop skills they will need as adults to think critically, solve problems creatively and communicate information and ideas to the world in which they live.

The school library information and technology program provides literacy instruction that helps students evaluate, analyze and understand the relevance of information. The program establishes a culture of reading, develops and maintains a collection pertinent to the school curriculum and the diversity of needs of students learning styles. The program also manages systems that support student learning as well as school and district programs.

The success of the school library information and technology program depends on the quality and number of professional teacher librarians that are responsible for the program. Licensed and endorsed teacher-librarians who are well educated and highly motivated are critical to maintaining a high standard of program delivery. All students and school staff in each school building must have equitable access to the library information and technology program provided by a licensed and endorsed teacher-librarian.

Submitted with MLA Board support and Approval,

Samantha K. Pierson

President, Montana Library Association